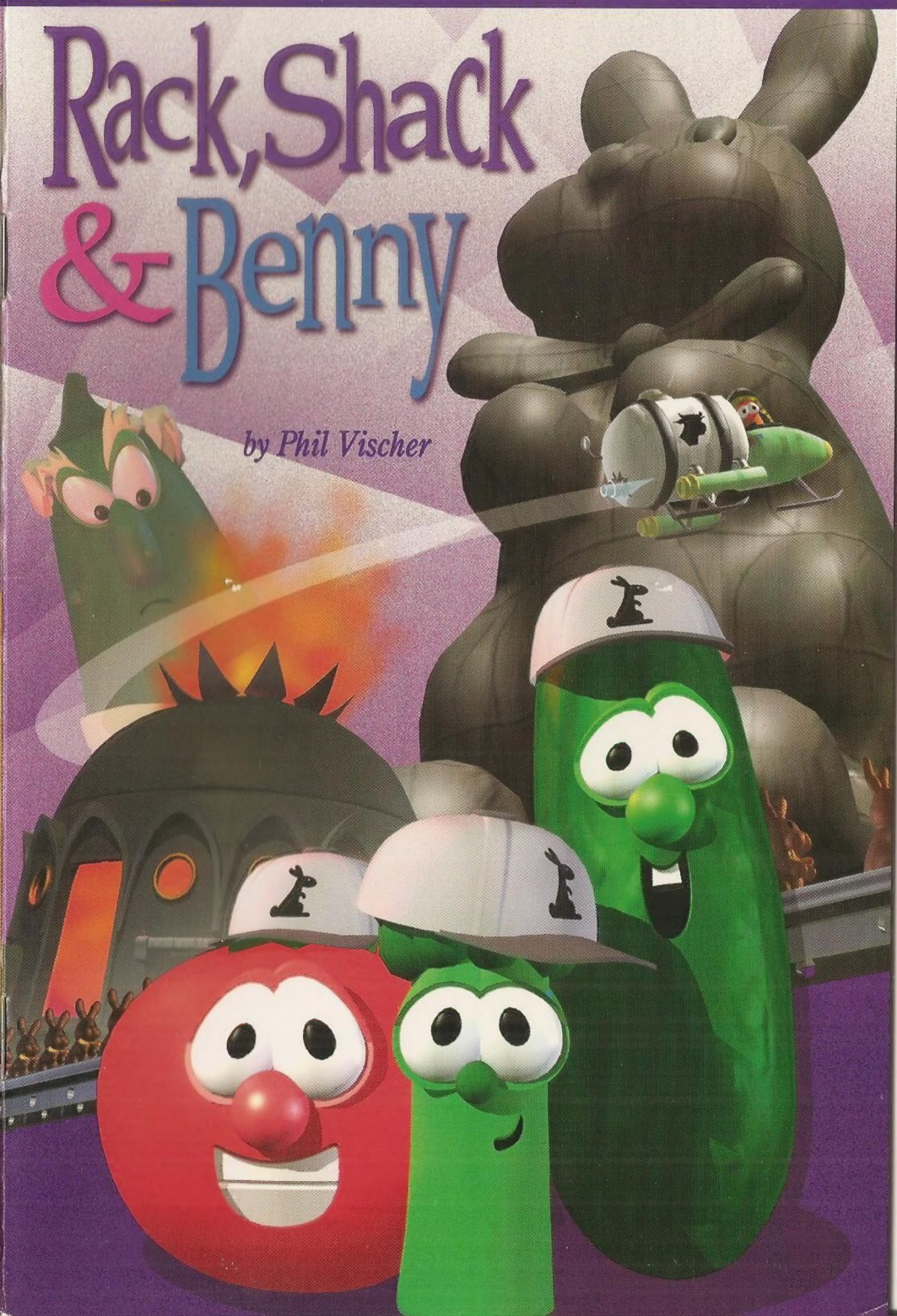


A VeggieTales READ · A L O N G B O O K

# Rack, Shack & Benny

*by Phil Vischer*



This book belongs to:

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# Rack, Shack & Benny

by Phil Vischer

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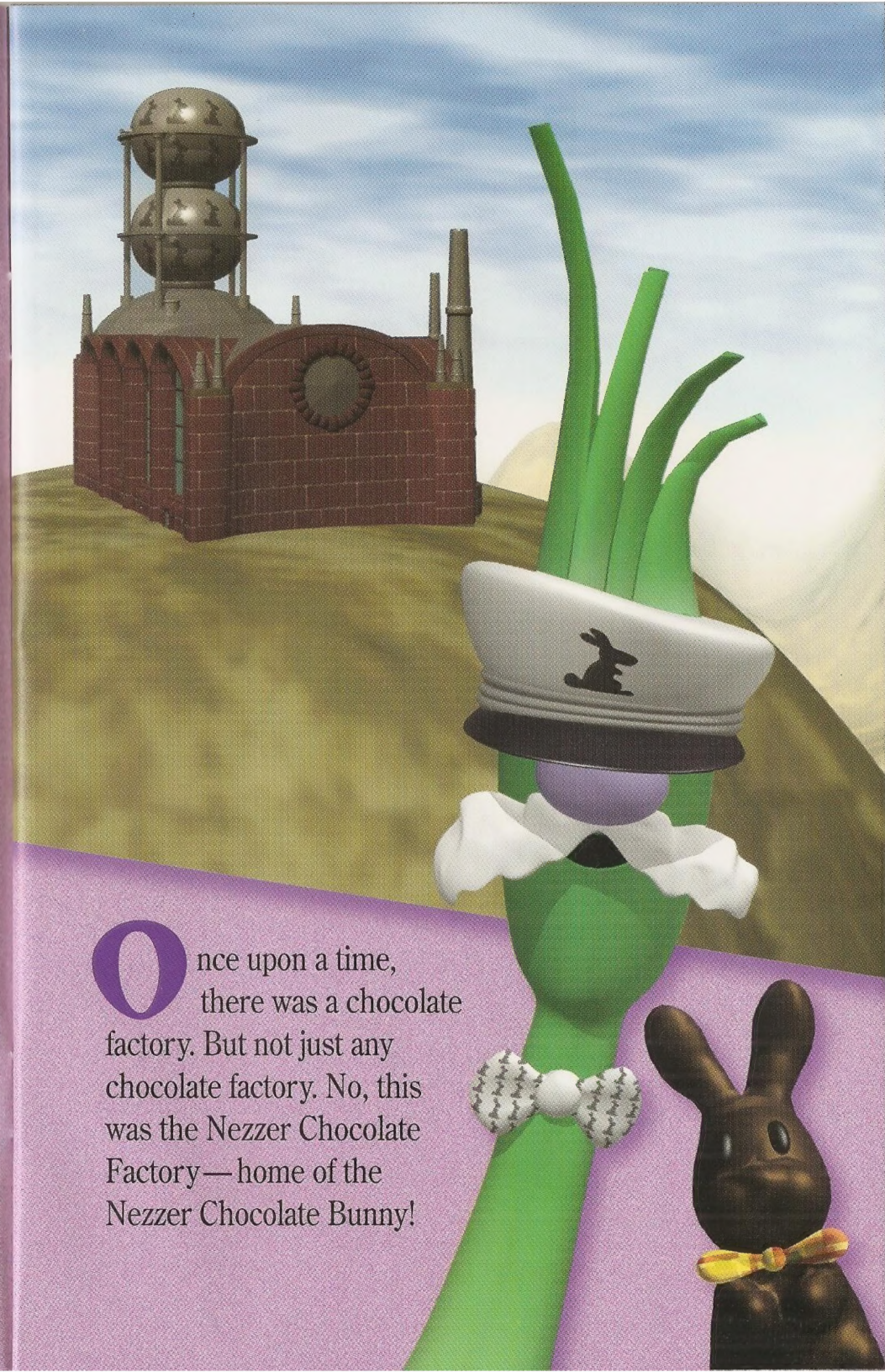
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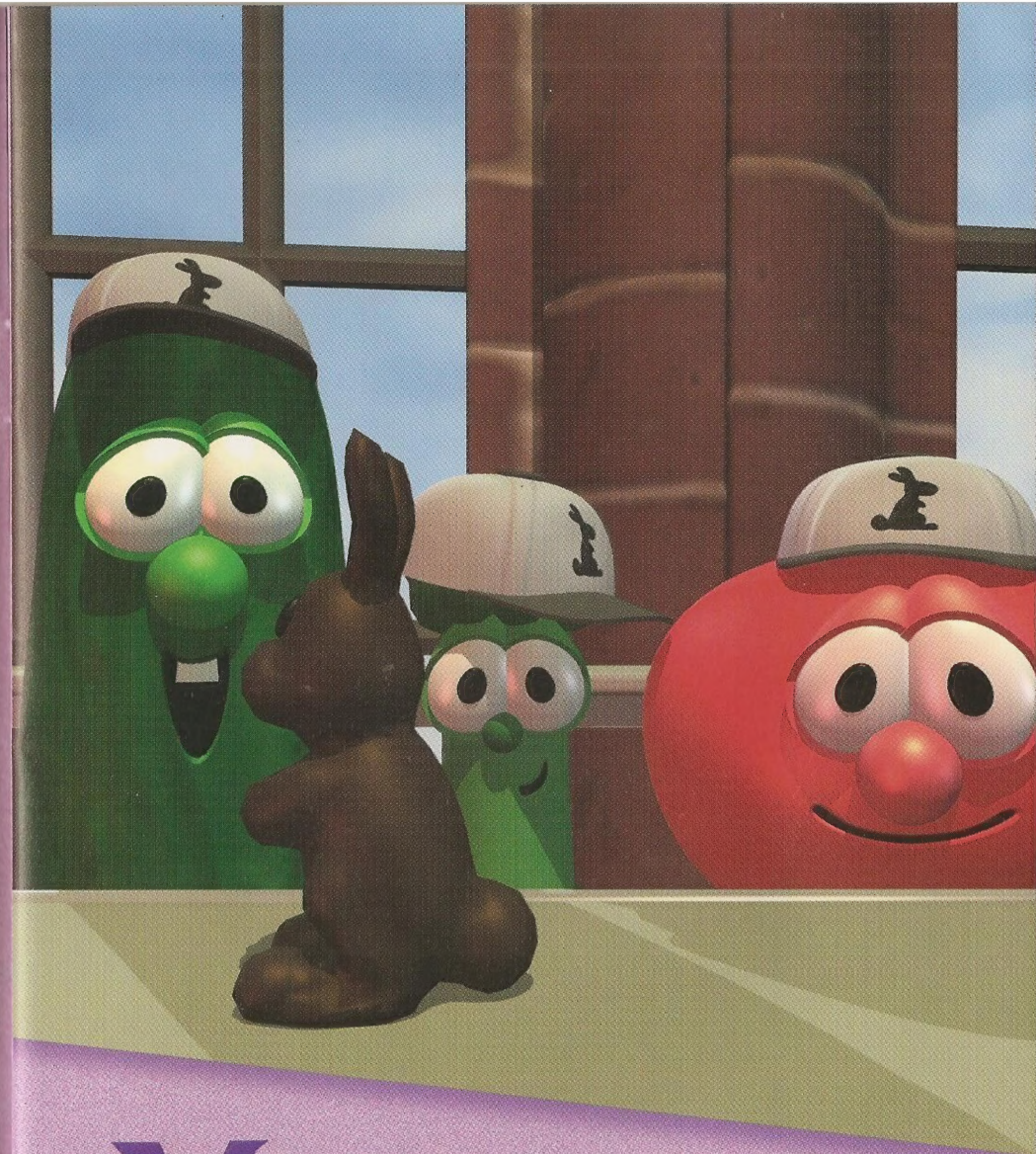
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Once upon a time,  
there was a chocolate  
factory. But not just any  
chocolate factory. No, this  
was the Nezzzer Chocolate  
Factory—home of the  
Nezzzer Chocolate Bunny!



Now, Mr. Nezzar — Nebby K. Nezzar — could be a little mean sometimes. He wasn't a bad man, but every now and then he'd get a little confused. Why, his chocolate bunnies were selling so well, I think he'd gotten a bit big for his britches. And that was saying something, because his britches were pretty big to start out with!



Mr. Nezzar had three boys working in his chocolate factory named Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Of course, no one could remember those names, so we just called them Rack, Shack and Benny. They came with some other boys and girls that Mr. Nezzar brought in to help make chocolate bunnies. Yep, they were away from their parents for the first time!

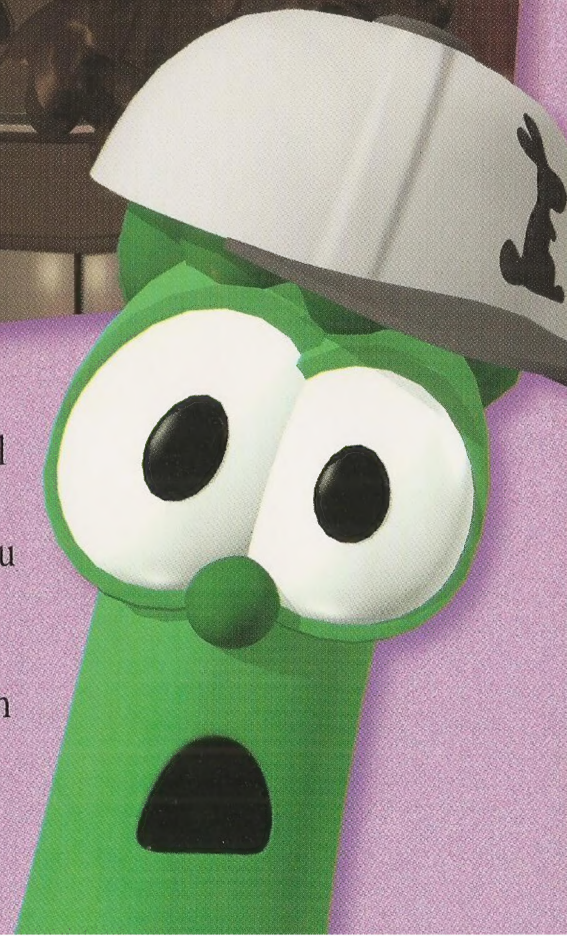
Things were going pretty well, until one day, when Mr. Nezzer made an announcement. "This morning, Nezzer Chocolate shipped its two millionth chocolate bunny!" he said. "To celebrate this momentous occasion, for the next 30 minutes, everyone may eat as many bunnies as they want!"



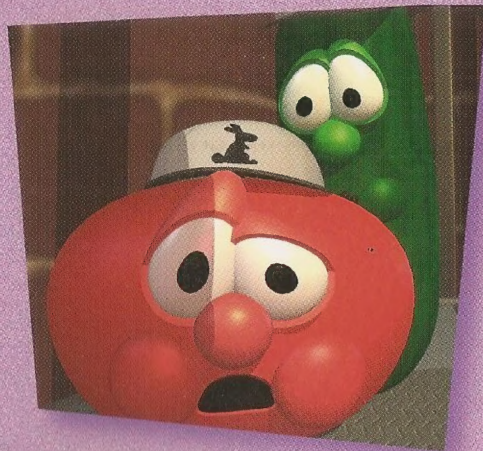
Well, the kids were thrilled! They loved chocolate and now they could eat as much as they wanted! Rack and Benny started eating bunnies, too. Then Shack had something to say.



"I don't think we should eat any more bunnies," he told them. "Don't you remember what our parents taught us? We shouldn't eat very much candy because it's not very good for us!"



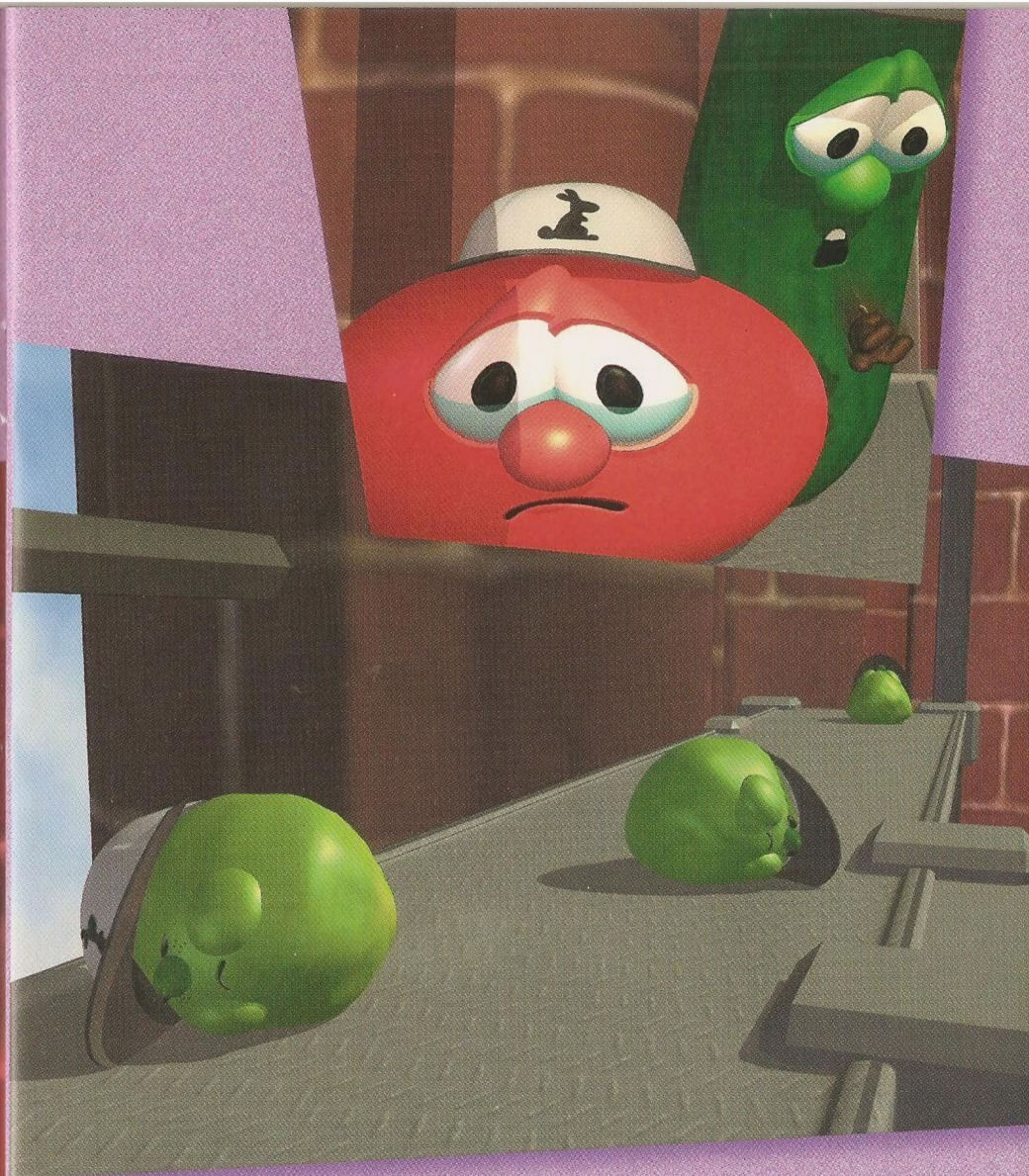
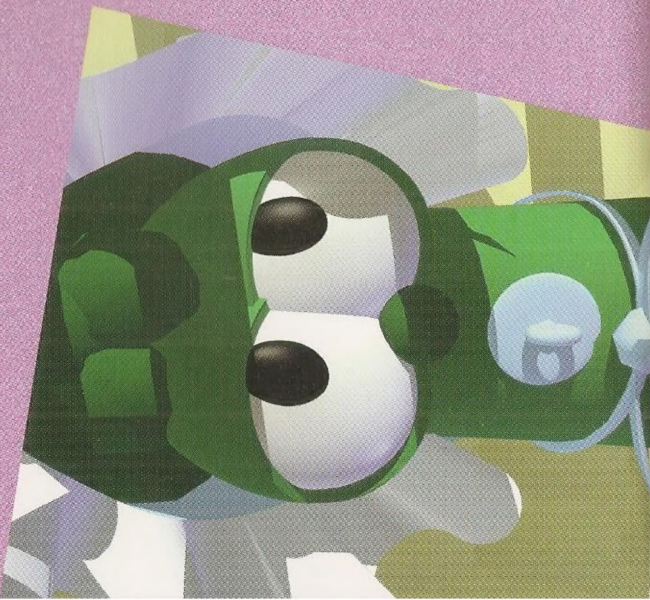
Shack," Rack replied, "our parents aren't here, now! We're on our own! Besides, everybody else is doing it!"



Shack told them about a song his mother used to sing to him a long time ago. It was a song about always remembering the things our parents teach us.



"Ya see?" Shack said. "Even though our parents aren't here right now to help us do what's right, if we remember what they taught us, it's kinda like they are here!"



Well, Rack and Benny agreed not to eat any more bunnies. When Mr. Nezzar came in, he found everyone lying on the floor with tummy aches! Everyone except Rack, Shack and Benny!

**T**he boys were very excited about their new jobs! They had done what they thought was right—even though no one else was doing it—and it paid off! But boy, were they in for a surprise when they got to Mr. Nezzer's office the next day!

**E**verybody else is lying down," Mr. Nezzer said, "but you three are standing up! We can use boys who know how to stand up here at Nezzer Chocolate! How would you like to be Junior Executives?"

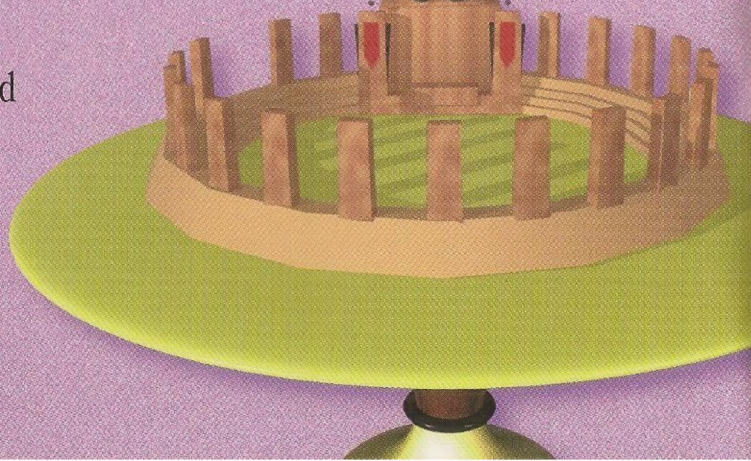
"What's it mean?" Benny asked. "It means you have to wear a tie," replied Nezzer's helper, Mr. Lunt.



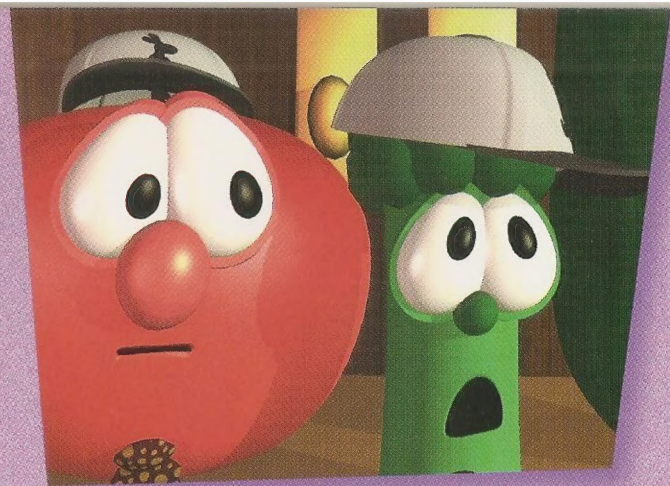
In his office, Mr. Nezzzer told Rack, Shack and Benny how much he loved the Nezzzer Chocolate Bunny. He told them how he wanted everyone to love the bunny. So he had decided to build a giant chocolate bunny for everyone to bow down to!



"This is just a model," he told them. "The real bunny is 90 feet high!"

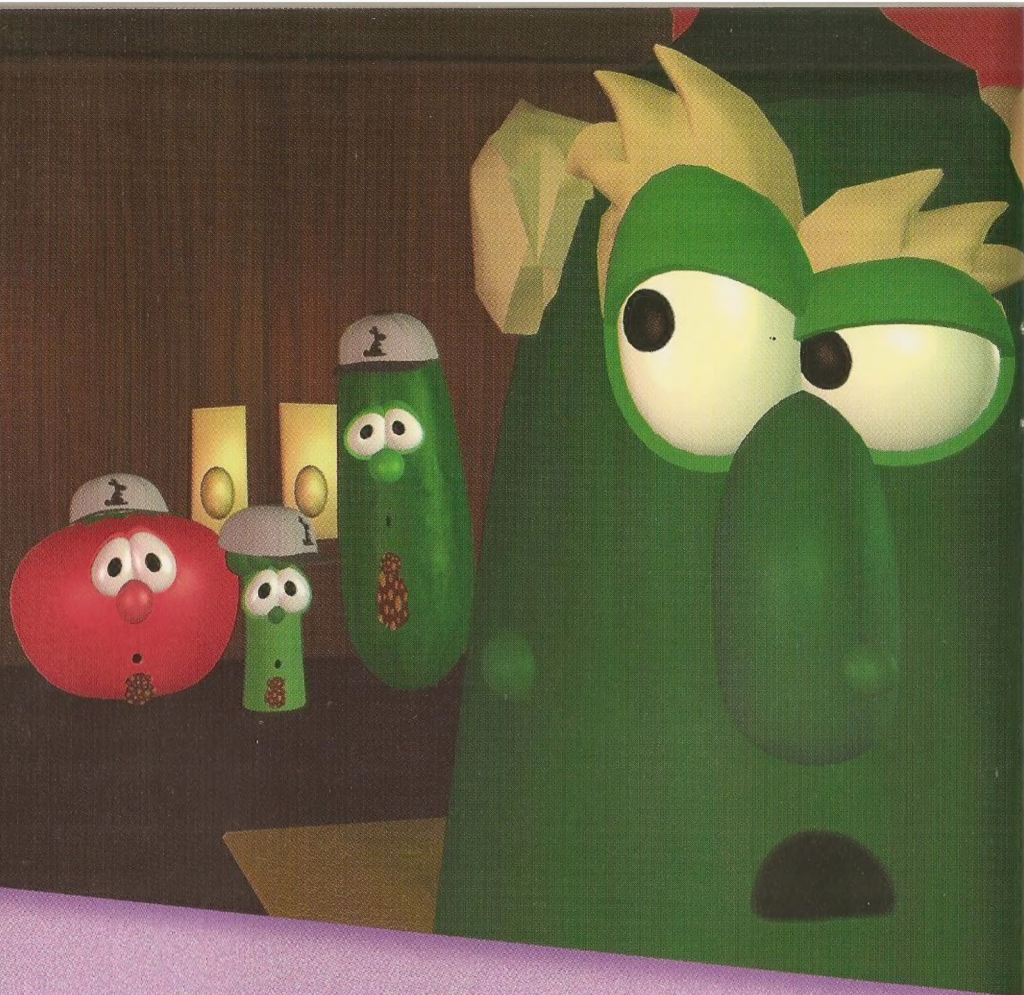


Wow. That's a big bunny, sir!" Shack said.

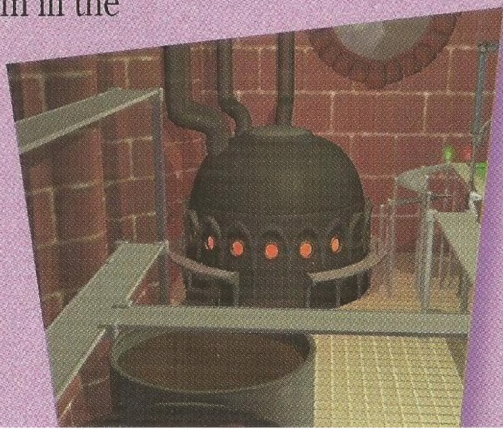


"Mmm-hmm," Mr. Nezzzer replied, "and it's going to be a beautiful thing when everybody bows down and sings the Bunny Song!"

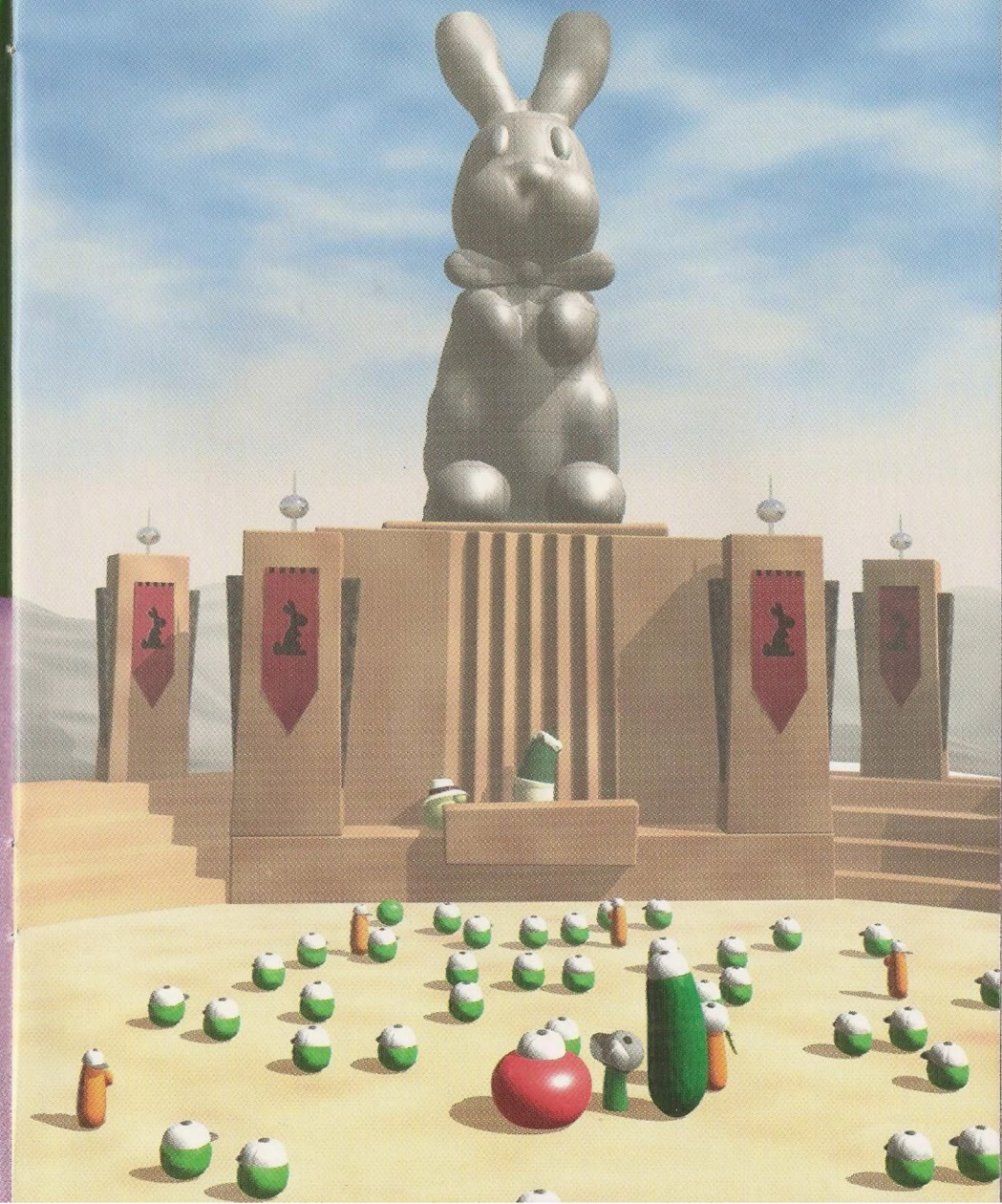




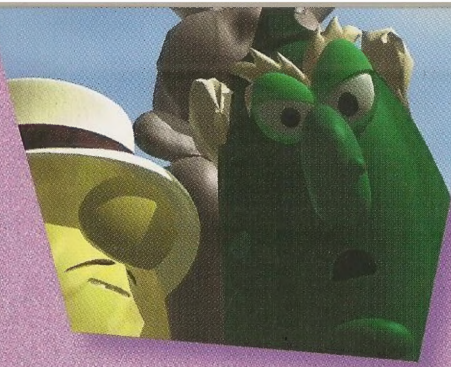
**W**ell! The Bunny Song was full of terrible things that Rack, Shack and Benny knew were wrong! Mr. Nezzer told them that if they didn't sing it, he was going to throw them in the furnace, where the bad bunnies went! What should they do? If they stand up for what they believe in now, they'll be in a heap of trouble!



**T**hat afternoon, Mr. Nezzer brought everyone outside to meet the giant bunny. "Now it is time to bow and sing the Bunny Song!" he said. The music started and everyone bowed. Then Mr. Lunt noticed something.



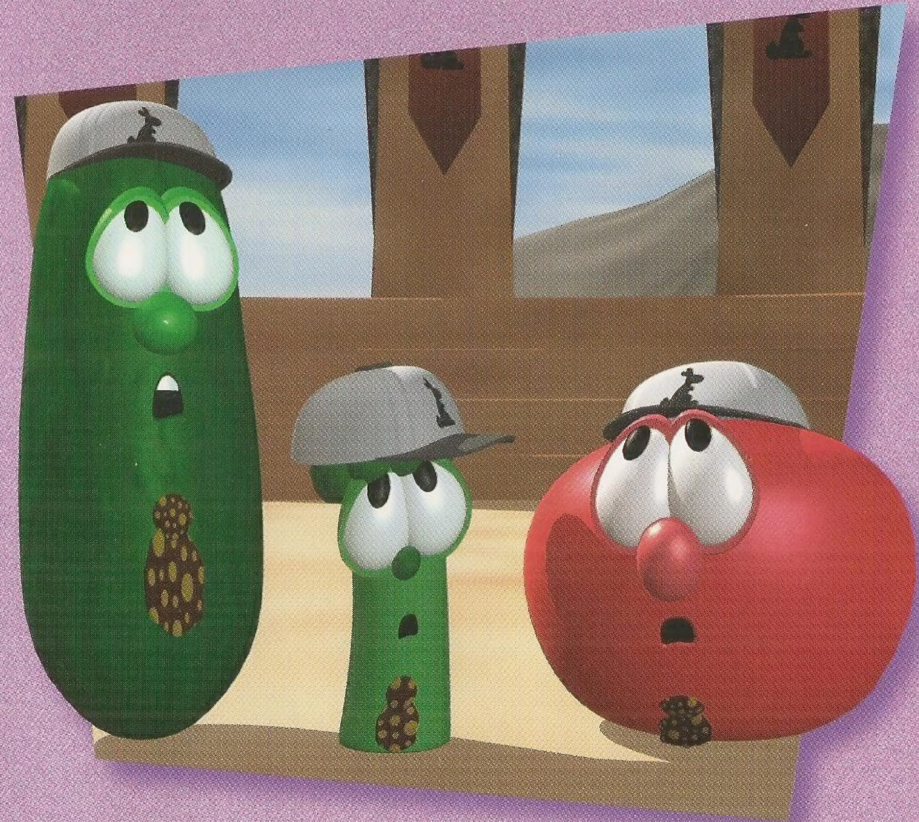
**W**ey boss! Those three guys — it doesn't look like they're bowing," he said. Mr. Nezzer took a closer look. It was Rack, Shack and Benny!



**S**till, Rack Shack and Benny did not sing. Mr. Nezzer shouted again, "Sing the song!"



Finally, Shack started singing. But he wasn't singing the Bunny Song. No, he was singing the song his mother taught him! Rack and Benny joined in and they sang the song together.



"I said, it's time to sing the Bunny Song!" he repeated. Rack, Shack and Benny did not sing. Their friend Laura was shocked! "Come on guys!" she begged, "Sing the song! Everybody's doing it!"

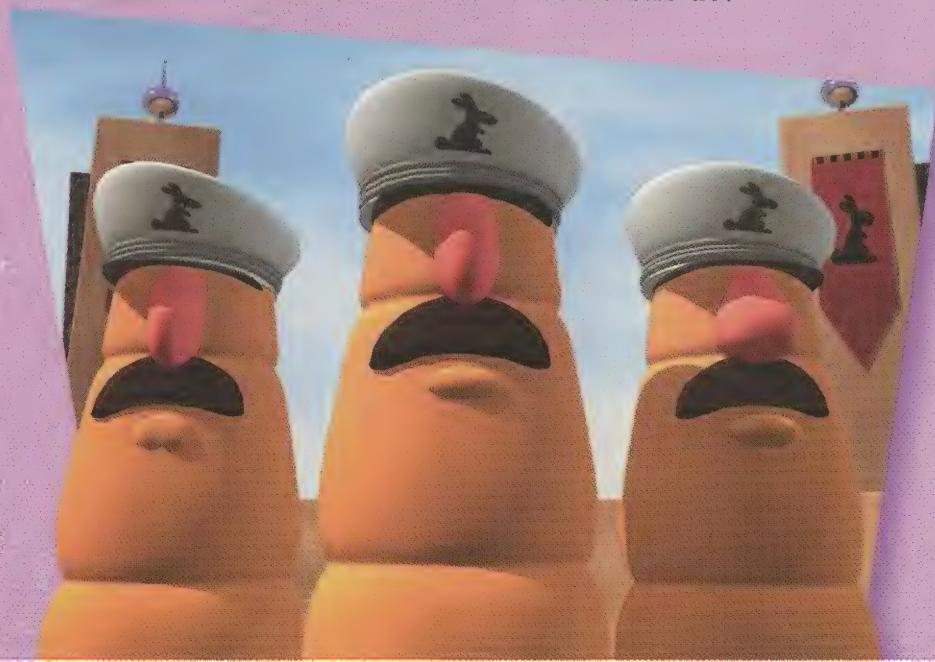


**W**hen they finished, Mr. Nezzer was smiling! "Oh, that was beautiful!" he said. "I'm gonna be singing that song myself ...



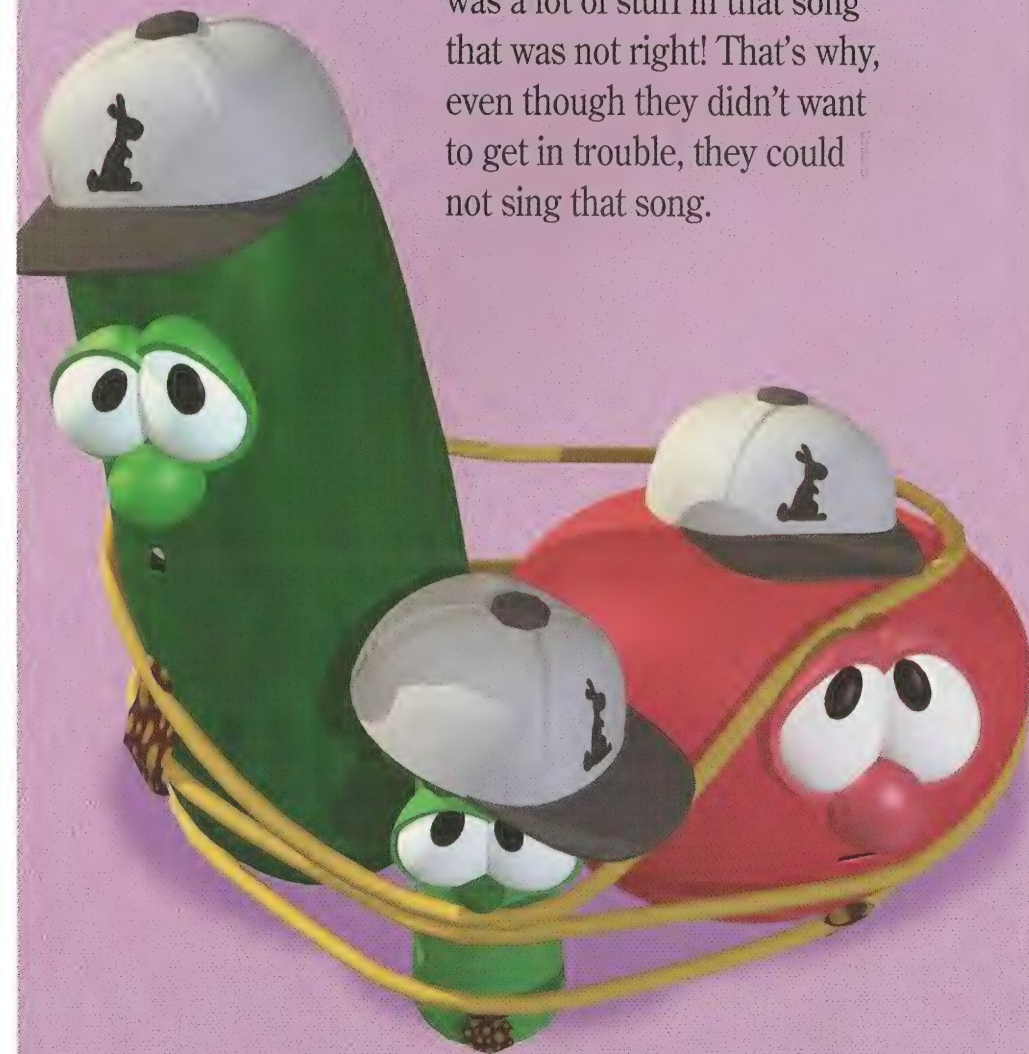
as I throw you into the furnace!! Guards! Seize them! Take them to the furnace!!"

Laura looked on in horror as the guards dragged her friends away. What could she do?



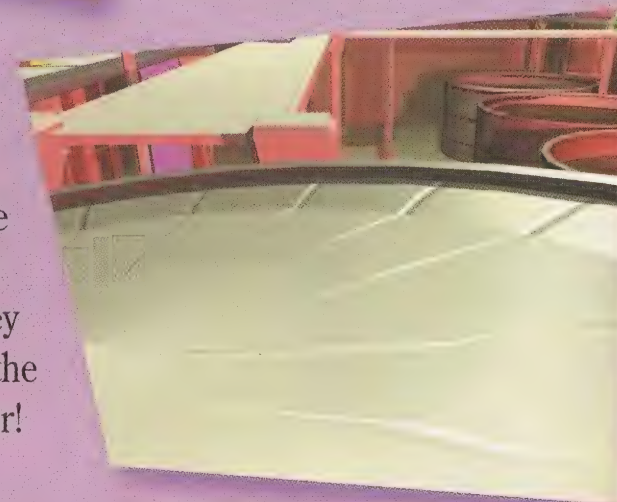
**B**ack in the factory, Mr. Nezzer put Rack, Shack and Benny on the conveyor belt that led to the furnace! He asked them one more time, "Will you, or won't you, sing the song?"

**T**he boys thought hard. Then they explained to Mr. Nezzer that their parents had always taught them to stand up for what they believed in. They also told him that God wanted them to do what was right, and that there was a lot of stuff in that song that was not right! That's why, even though they didn't want to get in trouble, they could not sing that song.



**M**r. Nezzer smiled. "I understand, boys," he said. Benny was amazed. "You do?" "Oh, yes," Mr. Nezzer continued, "I understand—that you're bad bunnies!"

Mr. Nezzer pushed a button that sent Rack, Shack and Benny down the slide towards the furnace! Round and round they went, as the glow of the furnace grew brighter! Was this the end?

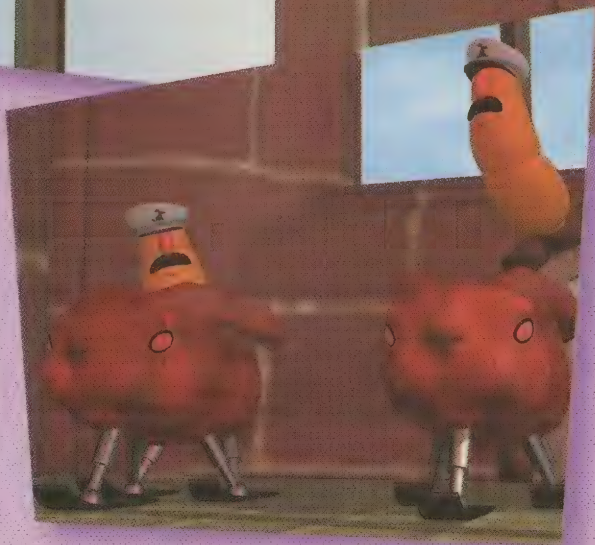


Suddenly they stopped falling. They hit something, but it wasn't the furnace!

**M**r. Nezzzer turned to see what happened and Laura's truck rose into the air, with Rack, Shack and Benny safely inside! "Sorry, sir. Can't let you cook my buddies!" she yelled.



"Guards! Get them!!" Mr. Nezzzer hollered. Two guards jumped into flying bunny cycles and raced off after Laura!



**L**aura was a good driver! She led the guards into the giant pipes of the factory, twisting and turning as they raced along!



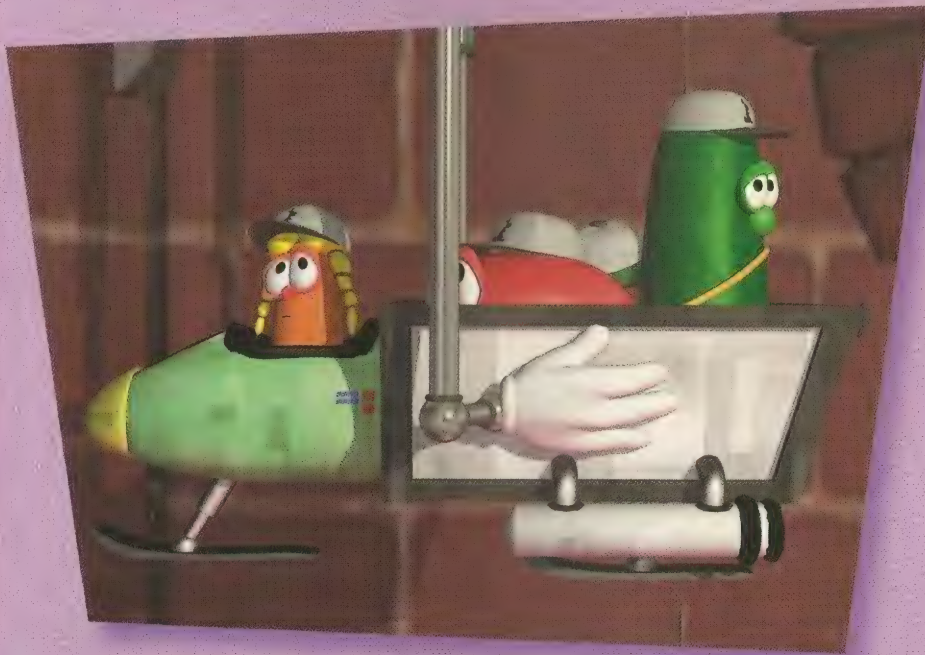
One by one, she tricked the guards into going the wrong way and they fell out of the pipes and into the giant vats of chocolate below!

Up ahead, they saw light streaming down the tunnel. That must be the way out!



**L**aura followed the light and flew out of the pipe. But, instead of being outside, they were right back where they started, above the furnace with Mr. Nezzzer smiling at them!

"You're back!" he said. "Now, if I'm not mistaken, that truck belongs to me! Mr. Lunt?"



Mr. Lunt pushed a button and two giant arms grabbed Laura's truck and held it tight! "Oh, but look!" Nezzzer continued, "My truck seems to be full of garbage! Mr. Lunt, is there anything you can do about that?"



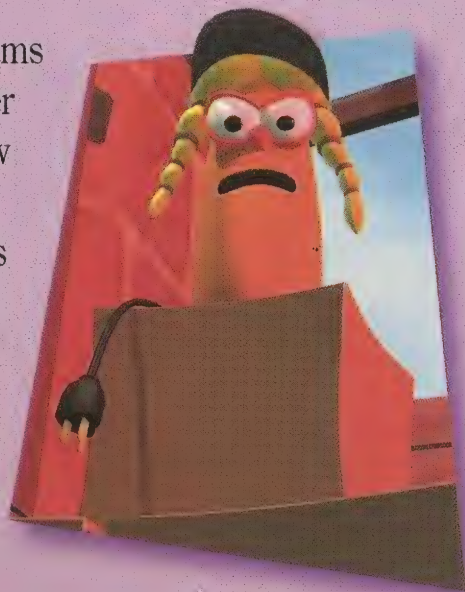
**M**r. Lunt pushed another button and the arms began turning the truck over! He was going to dump them right into the furnace! While no one was looking, Laura jumped out of the truck and disappeared behind a pile of boxes.



Rack, Shack and Benny were now looking right down into the furnace! Shack turned to his friends with a worried look on his face. "Remember how our parents said that God would always be watching out for us?" he asked. "I sure hope they were right!"

**J**ust then the crane's arms shut down! Mr. Nezzar looked around and saw Laura standing on top of the boxes with the crane's power cord next to her and a crazy look in her eyes! "I said nobody bakes my buddies!!" she hollered.

The boys smiled at their brave friend, but their smiles faded as the tail of the truck began bending under their weight!



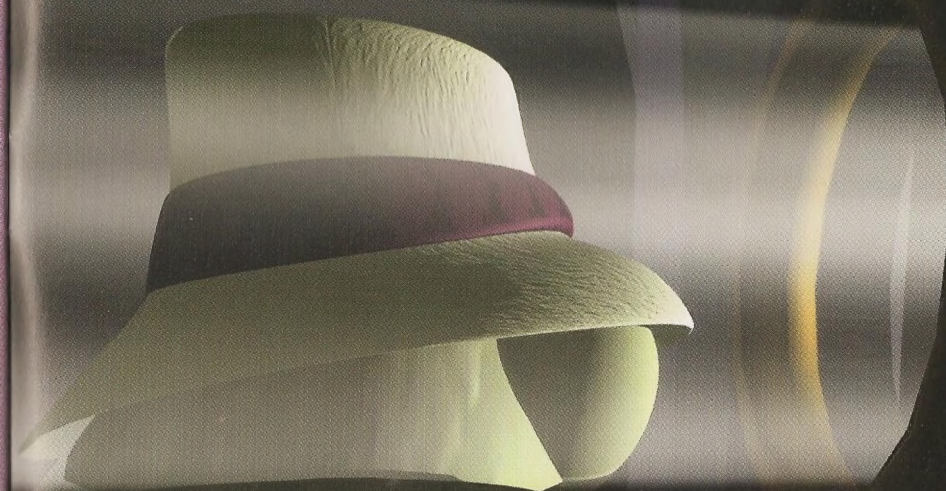
**L**isten here, young lady!" Nezzar yelled. He was interrupted by a loud crack! The tailgate had broken and Laura and Mr. Nezzar watched as Rack, Shack and Benny disappeared into the glowing furnace!





Nobody's ever gonna stand up to me again!!" Mr. Nezzer laughed. But then something strange happened.

A crackling noise filled the air. Mr. Nezzer spun around to see light streaming down into the furnace, filling the factory with an eerie glow!



Mr. Lunt hopped up to a window and looked inside. "Hey, boss," he said, "how many guys did we throw into the furnace?" Mr. Nezzer was frightened. "Uh . . . three?" he mumbled.

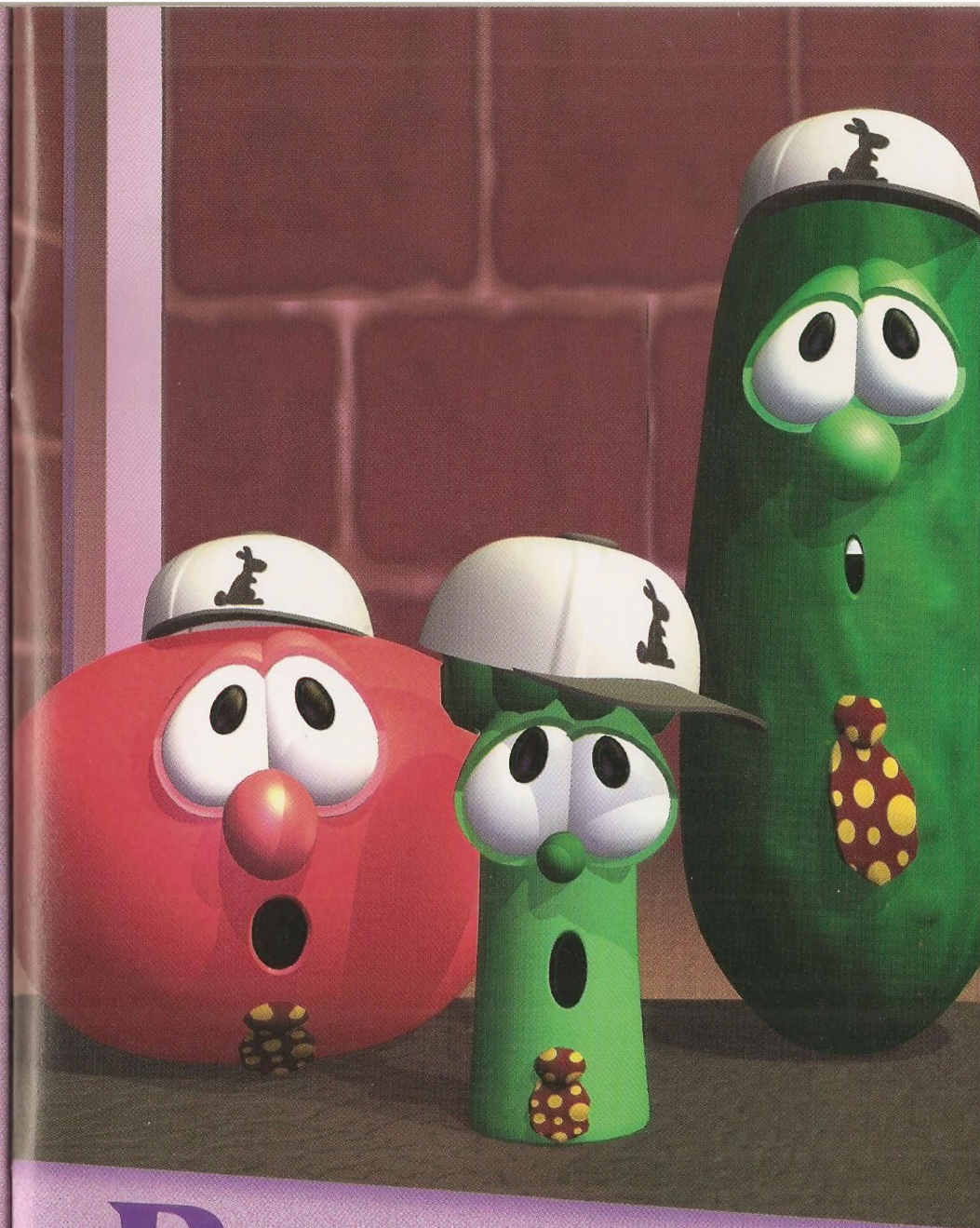
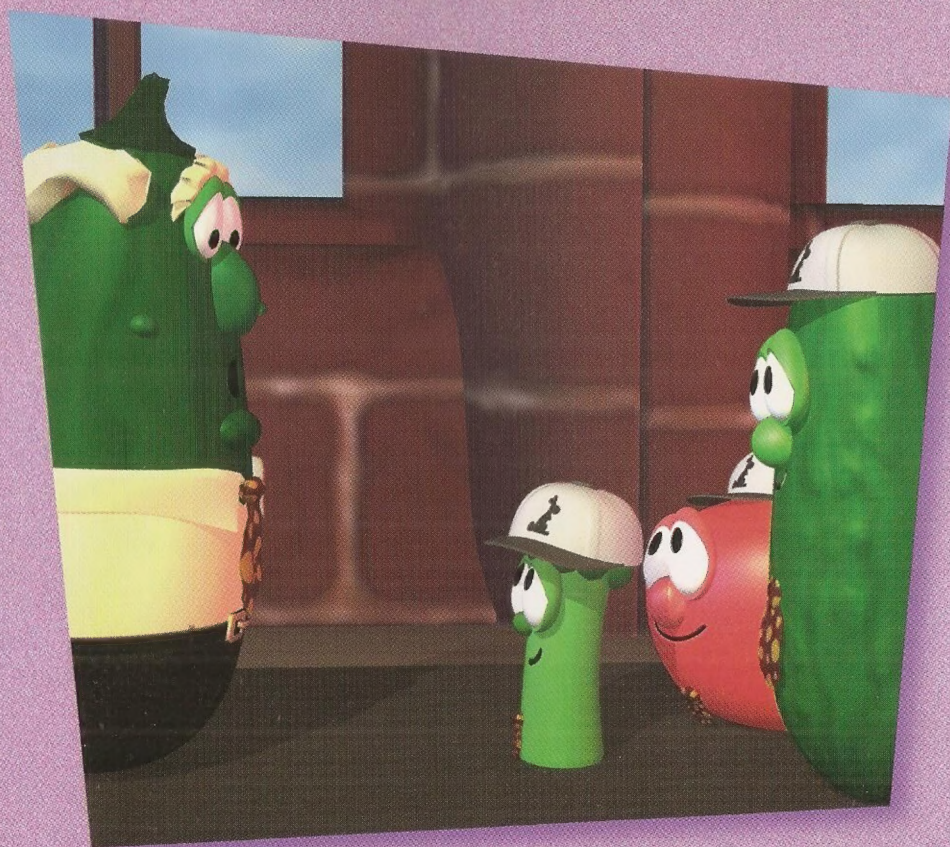
"Well, it looks like four guys in there now, and one of them's *real* shiny!" said Mr. Lunt.

Mr. Nezzer was speechless! Mr. Lunt looked back into the furnace. "One more thing, boss," he whispered, "they ain't burning up!"



**N**ow Mr. Nezzer realized that God was taking care of Rack, Shack and Benny — even in the fiery furnace! Quickly, he called the boys out. They hadn't gotten burned at all!

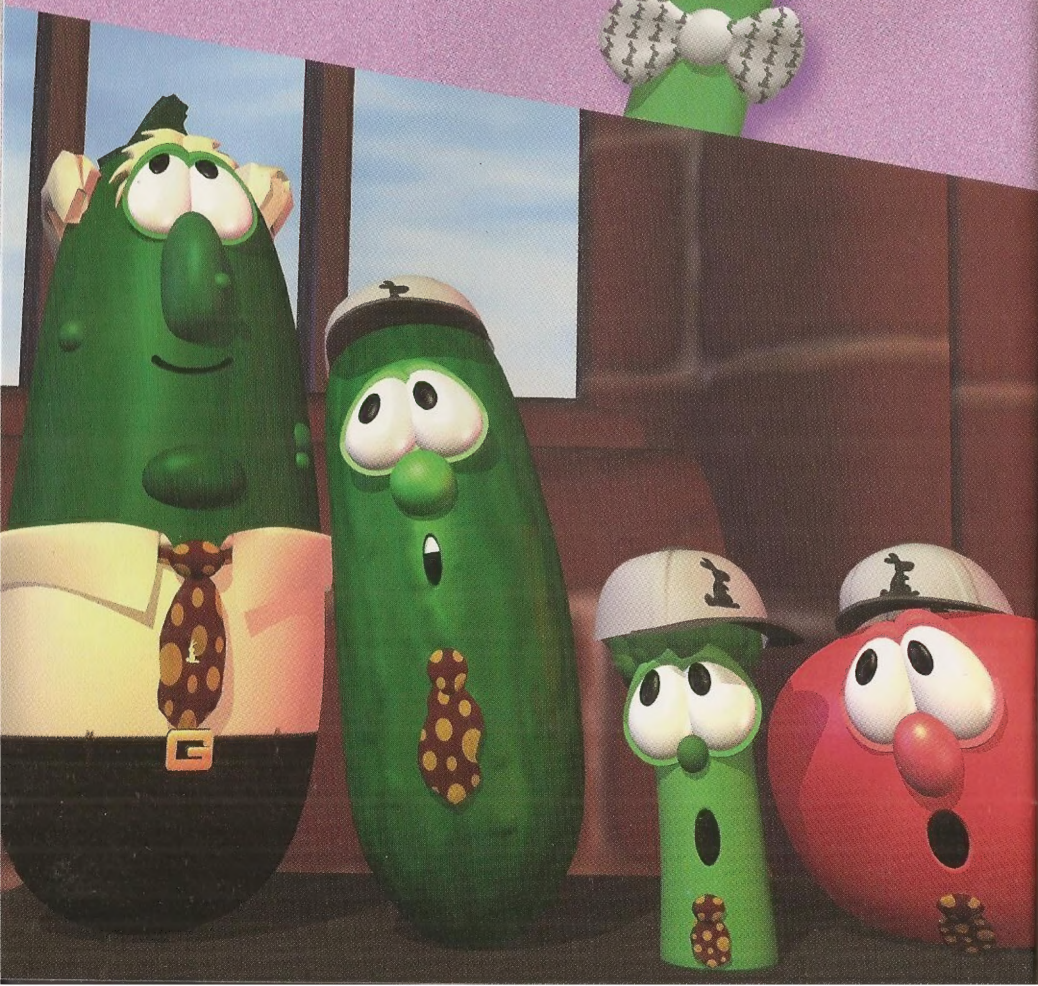
Mr. Nezzer apologized for trying to make them do things that they weren't supposed to do. "What was I thinking?" he said, "I must have forgotten everything that my mommy taught me!"



**R**ack, Shack and Benny remembered one more thing that their parents taught them — that God always wants us to forgive. "We forgive you," they said.

And that's the  
story of Rack,  
Shack and Benny.

Three boys who  
learned that if they  
stood up for what they  
believed in, God would  
stand with them!



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the right thing  
isn't easy!

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for what's right, God will stand  
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